1991-2000 respectively. However, the collection in excise up to January, iOOl is higher by 12% over the last year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Filing of Income Tax Returns

614. .SHRI K.C KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the cities of Karnataka covered under six economic criteria for filing of Income Tax returns *m* Form 2C who have filed returns for the assessment year 1999-2000;

(b) whether possessing a telephone is one of the criteria for filing the Income Tax returns in Form 2C; and

(c) whether Government would delete possessing telephone from the above rule since telephone is a necessity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACH AND RAN): (a) The number of persons who have filed returns in Form 2C for the assessment year 1999-2000 in the Karnataka and Goa region is 51,044.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Suggestions have been received for modifications in the criterion relating to subscription to a telephone. These suggestions are being examined in the current budgetary exercise, and the decision of the Government thereon will be reflected in the Budget proposals.

Circulating of one Thousand Rupee Notes

† 615. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items which appeared in the "Dainik Jagaran" of 26th January, 2001 under the caption "Hazaar ka note chaian mein na aane ka mukhya karan kalabaazari"; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted on the basis of the facts given in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) There are news items apprearing in certain sections of the Press about circulation of Rs. 1,00Q/- denomination notes. Till date the Reserve Bank of India has supplied 107 million pieces of Rs. 1,000*- notes for issue to the members of the public. The Reserve Bank of India has also instructed its offices to sent further supplies to currency chests of public sector banks. Instructions have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India to its regional office to ensure that all demands for Rs. l.OOG7- notes are met, leaving no scope for any complaint. All the regional offices of the Reserve Bank of India are now holding adequate stock of Rs. 1,000/- notes and there is no heavy demand at present for these notes.

Loans to SSI

† 616. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the non-availability of adequate loans by the industrial banks for the Small Scale Industries in spite of its important role in industrial production of the country;

(b) if so, the various problems being faced by the Small Scale Industries; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to resolve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.